

Other helpful information

The Voting Rights Act requires particular polling locations to print ballots and other election materials in languages other than English, and to have oral translation help available at the polls where the need exists.

Also, Michigan law entitles persons with disabilities to receive reasonable accommodations to enable them to vote, which may include having someone read the ballot. You cannot be denied access to a polling place because of a disability.

Pay close attention if you hear any of these...

"I can't let you vote because your name doesn't appear on our lists."

"We are out of affidavits, so unless you have valid ID you cannot vote today."

"I'm sorry, the voting office is closed for a break."

"Do you have a criminal record or any outstanding warrants?"

"Is your home currently in foreclosure?"

"You can't redo your ballot if you make a mistake."

"Are you currently in bankruptcy, owe child support or have any outstanding debts that might have been referred to a collection agency?"

"I'm sorry, we don't have the equipment (or staff) to accommodate your disability. I'm afraid you cannot vote today."

"One of our officials must accompany you into the voting booth."

"The voting equipment is down now. You should come back later."

"Who will you be voting for today?"

"You look like an illegal immigrant. I need to see your papers before you can vote."

If you hear ANY of these statements and need help on Election Day, contact:

Your city, township or county clerk and ask them to help you resolve the problem. If you don't know how to contact your clerk, go to: <http://www.michigan.gov/vote> or call the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1/800-292-5973 and ask for the phone number of your clerk's office.

Contact the Election Protection Coalition at 1/866-OUR-VOTE (1/866-687-8683) or www.866ourvote.org and ask for help.

If your local clerk's office is unable or unwilling to help, call the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1/800-292-5973.

For more information on voting rights or to file a complaint after the election:

Contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 1/800-482-3604 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>

Contact the US Department of Justice – Voting Section at 1/800-253-3931 or visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting>

Contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections at 1/800-292-5973 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/vote>

Contact the Michigan ACLU at 313-578-6800 or visit <http://aclumich.org/issues/voting-rights>

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Voting – What You Should Know



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

ACCESS
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services

 **ACLU**
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of MICHIGAN

SER
METRO-DETROIT
JOBS FOR PROGRESS, INC.



DETROIT BRANCH NAACP

Frequently Asked Questions about Voting

Where do I vote?

To find the location of your polling place, check with your city or township clerk. You can also visit the Secretary of State Voter Information Center online at www.michigan.gov/vote

When are the polls open?

From 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day for both the primary and general elections. All qualified voters in line at 8 pm must be allowed to vote.

Who can vote?/Can immigrants vote?

You are eligible to vote if you are at least 18 years old, a Michigan resident and citizen of the US, you are registered to vote and you are not currently serving a jail or prison sentence. You must be registered at least 30 days before an election.

What if I moved?

You must register again. You can do this in person at any Secretary of State branch office; your city, township or County Clerk's office; and any Department of Human Services (DHS) office. You can re-register by mail (go to the Secretary of State's website and follow the instructions for the Michigan Voter Registration Form http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf).

Do I have to show photo identification before I can vote?

Voters are asked to present an acceptable current photo ID. The ID does not need to have your address on it. These types of ID are acceptable:

- Driver's license or federal or state government-issued ID;
- US passport;
- Military ID card with photo;
- Student ID with photo from a high school, college or university;
- Tribal ID card with photo.

Every voter has the option of voting by signing an affidavit that they don't have ID with them. A ballot **will not** be issued unless you display photo ID or sign the affidavit.

First-time voters should be prepared to show photo ID or other documents proving their address, however.

What if my name doesn't appear on the local clerk's list of registered voters?

Don't give up! If you registered on time, you can still vote. If you have your registration receipt, show it and you can vote. If you don't have a receipt, ask the election worker to help you make sure you're in the right precinct.

May I take campaign literature into the polling place?

Yes—for your personal use only. You may not distribute or display it to other voters, and you must not leave any materials at the polling place.

May I ask for help with voting?

Yes. Without giving a reason, any voter can ask for help from the precinct board. Two inspectors (one from each political party) will help you. Election inspectors cannot suggest to the voter how s/he should vote. If you cannot read or write, you can ask anyone to help you (except your employer, an agent of your employer or an officer or agent of your union). You can take a family member or friend into the polling location to help translate.

What if I have changed my name since the last election?

If you need to change your name on your driver's license or Michigan ID card, you must go to a Secretary of State branch office to process this change.

Can I wear election-related clothing to the polls?

No. If you go to vote with a button or shirt bearing election-related images or slogans, you will be asked to cover or remove it. You cannot display pamphlets, flyers, stickers or other campaign-related information within 100 feet of an entrance to a polling place.

Can voters be challenged based on home foreclosures?

No. Home foreclosure information is not a reasonable basis to challenge a voter.

Can Michigan residents in jail or prison vote?

Residents confined in jail or prison awaiting trial are eligible to vote. They must do so with an absentee ballot. Residents serving a sentence in jail or prison after conviction cannot vote while they're incarcerated. Once released after serving their sentence, they can vote without restrictions.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

If you are registered and have previously voted in person, you may vote absentee if ANY of the following apply:

- You are age 60 or older;
- You will be absent from the community where you are registered to vote on Election Day;
- You are unable to go to the polls and vote without help;
- You cannot attend the polls because of your religious beliefs;
- You have been appointed an election inspector in a precinct other than your own;
- You are in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

You must get an absentee ballot by asking for it in writing (you cannot ask over the phone). Your request must include your name, date of the election, the address where you are registered to vote, the reason you want an absentee ballot, the address where you want your ballot sent, your signature and the date of your request.